[25th March 1961

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : அவரே பதில் சொல்லி விட்டார். அவருடைய கருத்தை நன்றியுடன் நான் தெரிந்து கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that by students attending the evening classes held in Universities the standard has been deteriorating and they do not compare very well with the students who had put in attendance in the colleges? ' As such the Madras University has come to the conclusion that they will not change their present system.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member is giving information. I am glad to take that information.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—PRIVILEGE MATTER *RE* PUBLICATION OF A MEMBER'S SPEECH IN "THINA SEITHI".

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri Anbazhagan has given notice of a matter of privilege which reads as follows :—

'கீழ்க்காணும் உரிமைப் பிரச்னையை சட்டமன்றத்தில் எழுப்பவும் உரிமைக்குழுவின் ஆய்வுக்கு விடவும் தங்கள் அனுமதி வேண்டுகிறேன்.

சென்னையிலிருந்து வெளிவரும் "தினச் செய்தி" ஏட்டின் 17-3-61 தேதியிட்ட பதிப்பில், 16-3-61 சட்டமன்ற நடவடிக்கையைப்பற்றி வெளியிட்டுள்ள செய்தித் தலைப்பில்— "தி.மு.க. மெம்பர் 'திமிர்' பேச்சின் விளைவு" என்றும், செய்தியில்— "அசெம்பளியில் இன்று க. அன்பழகன் (தி.மு.க.) பேசும்போது சபையில் கூச்சலும் குழப்பமும் ஏற்பட்டது" என்றும் காணப்படுகிறது. இவ்வாறு காணப்படும் செய்தி, உறுப்பினரை இழிவுபடுத்துவதாகவும்—மன்றத்திற்கு குறைவு உண்டாக்குவதாகவும் உள்ளதால், இதனை ஓர் உரிமைப் பிரச்னையாக ஏற்று தக்க நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ள வேண்டுகிறேன்.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : This matter of privilege has been given notice of by the hon. Member Sri Anbazhagan. In this connection I have to inform the House that in the House of Commons misrepresentation of the Members' speeches in Parliament is a breach of privilege of the House and the destruction of the freedom of Parliament. A misleading headline or a bannerline which is not supported by the text of speech is also considered to be a breach of privilege.

Freedom of speech in the Legislature is subject to the provisions of the Constitution and the rules of procedure. Similarly there are limitations on the freedom of expression by the press. The publication of the proceedings both of Courts of Justice and of Parliament are protected by privilege on the same ground—that the occasional inconvenience to individuals arising from it must yield

to the general good. A fair and faithful report of the whole debate would, therefore, not be actionable. A garbled or partial report or detached parts of proceedings published with intent to injure individuals will be disentitled to protection.

The Press should not cast any reflections on the conduct and character of the Members in the performance of their duty. The Press should not also attribute motives and malice to the Members.

It would be of interest if I quote from the Committee of Privileges of the House of Commons relating to the "Daily Mail" newspaper in 1948 : 9-30 a.m.

"Whilst recognizing that it is the duty of Parliament to intervene in the case of attacks which may tend to undermine public confidence in and support of the institution of Parliament itself, your Committee think it important that, on the one hand the law of Parliamentary privilege should not be administered in a way which would fetter or discourage the free expression of opinion or criticism however prejudiced or exaggerated such opinions or criticisms might be, and that, on the other hand, the process of Parliamentary investigation should not be used in a way which would give importance to irresponsible statement."

The objection taken is to the use of the word "திமிர்" which would mean 'haughty' or 'arrogant'. Calling a speech of a Member haughty may not amount to attributing improper motives to the Member. The word is a bit strong but does not involve a matter of privilege.

The other words objected to are 'confusion' and 'noise'. These are not objectionable words at all.

Therefore I withhold my consent to raise this matter.

III.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1961-62 (con)

DEMAND XXIX—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir . . .

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY : On a point of information, Sir . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Not after the Chair has called the Hon. the Minister.

(Sri A. Govindaswamy resumed his seat.)

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I move—

"That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,25,100, under Demand XXIX—Civil Works—Grants-in-Aid."